

Demographic Snapshots

a monthly look at
Seattle's changing
population &
housing from the
City Demographer

Birthplace of Seattle's Foreign-Born Population

An unprecedented 95,000 people living in Seattle in 2000—nearly 17 percent of the population—were born abroad. This figure is 40 percent higher than a decade earlier and more than four times higher than the city's overall growth during the 1990s, which was nine percent.

Despite higher rates of growth during the 1990s among people from Africa (320 percent), the Americas (74 percent), and Oceania (63 percent), Asia still remains the birthplace of more than half the city's foreign-born (see graph below). The number of Seattle residents from Asia increased only 34 percent during the 1990s.

The top sending countries of Seattle's foreign-born population are shown in the table at right. Together these 14 countries account for seven of every ten foreign-born people in Seattle.

The 2000 census found that nearly half (44,153) of Seattle's foreign-born population entered the U.S. during the 1990s. Yet, there were only 27,216 more foreign-born in Seattle in 2000 than in 1990 because one-quarter of the city's 1990 foreign-born population no longer lived in Seattle a decade later.

Not everyone born in a foreign country and now living in the U.S. is an immigrant. The foreign-born population includes diplomats, foreign students, and temporary workers—many of whom will return to their home country.

For additional information, visit DCLU's Population and Demographics website at www.seattle.gov/dclu/planning/comprehensive or contact the City Demographer:

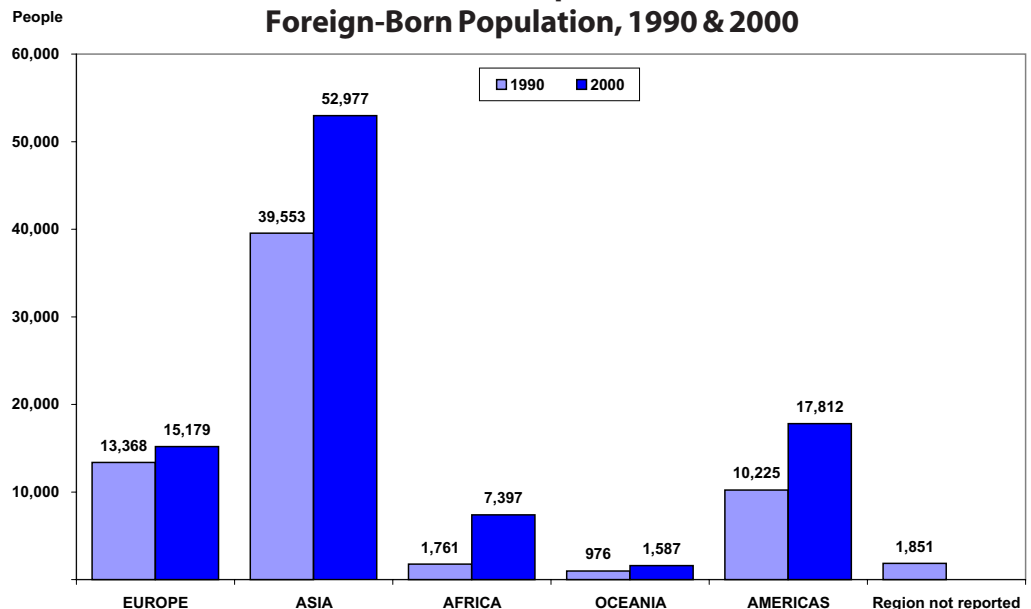
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Top Countries of Birth for Seattle's Foreign-Born Population, 2000

Country	Number
Philippines	12,361
Vietnam	11,305
China	11,239
Mexico	7,902
Korea	4,432
Japan	3,250
Ethiopia	2,777
Germany	2,567
United Kingdom	2,565
Cambodia	1,968
Laos	1,885
India	1,416
Thailand	1,411
Russia	1,199
TOTAL of above countries	65,977
TOTAL from all countries	94,952

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3 (SF 3) Sample data.

Asia Continues to Be Top Source of Seattle's Foreign-Born Population, 1990 & 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Summary Tape File 3 (STF 3) Sample data and Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) Sample data.